THE 23-YEAR-OLD GENIUS BRINGS US A HEART-WRENCHING 61P!
NISHIMIYA SHOUKO.
"THIS IS AMA-ZING!" "BUT IS IT OKAY TO PUBLISH THIS?!"
THE LIVELY YOUTH STORY THAT SENT OUR EDITORS INTO A HEATED DEBATE!
I HATED THAT GIRL.
聲の形
KOE NO KATACHI
大今良時
BY OOIMA YOSHITOKI
監修:全日本ろうあ連盟
Presented by VI x FwPA

.....

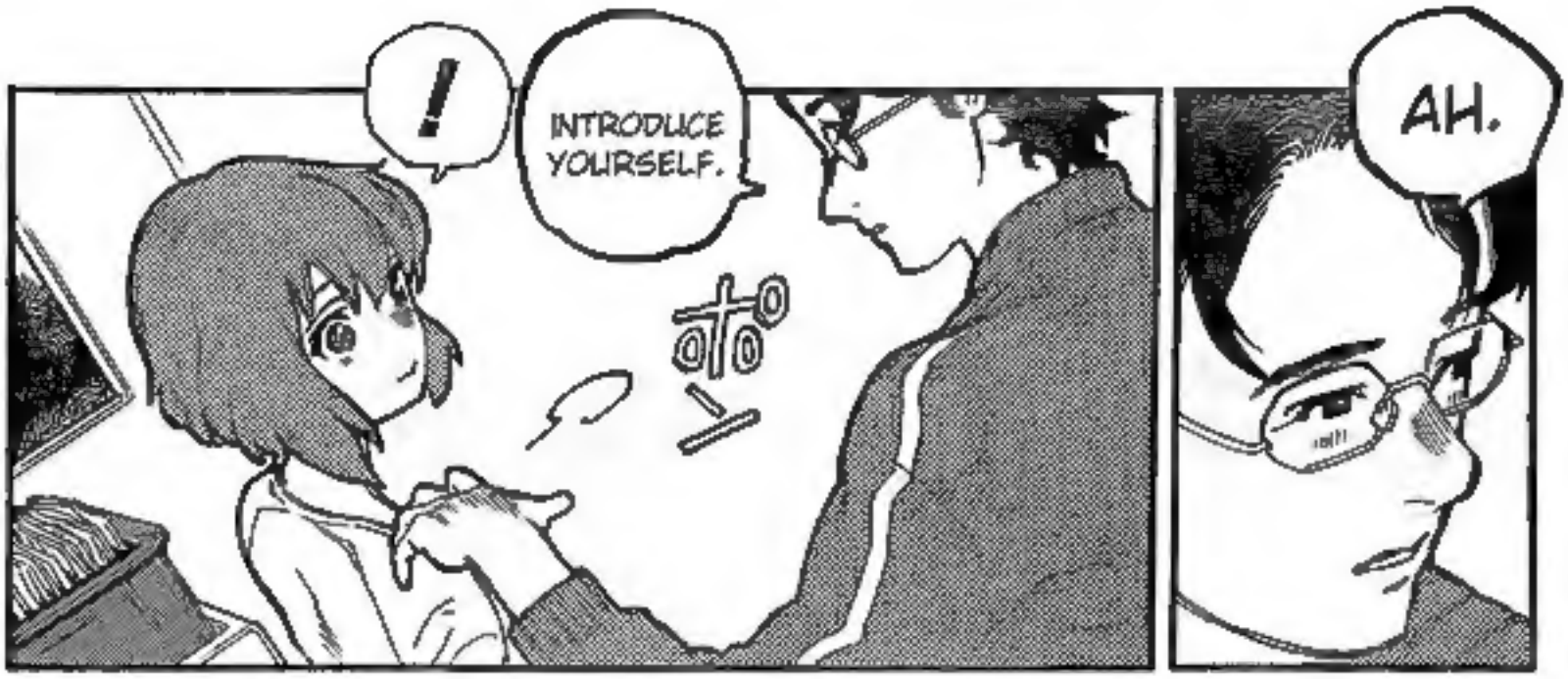
GO AHEAD AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

LISTEN UP!

WE HAVE A NEW FRIEND JOINING US TODAY!

.....

PLEASE START READING FROM THE COLOR PAGE!


!
INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
AH.

Nice to meet you.
I'm Nishimiya Shouko.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER...?

HUH?

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ヘ°ラ

Please use this notebook when you speak to me

I will use this notebook to communicate with all of you I hope we can all be friends

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木
曜日
直
I'm deaf.

WHY DID I HATE HER?

REASON ONE:

SHE REALLY GAVE ME THE CREEPS.

THE NEXT PART IS FOR SEAT FIFTEEN...

WHO'S IN SEAT FIFTEEN?

NISHIMIYA-SAN.

HERE.

HERE.

EGH!

YES, SIR...

SPEAK UP, UENO!

HOW CAN YOU PROPERLY CONVEY THE AUTHOR'S FEELINGS WITH SUCH A TINY VOICE?!

ebe... nda mom ne...

...nok, wan du see...

YES SIR.

SERI-OUSLY?

OKAY, LET'S MOVE ON.

ISHIDA.

WEEEH.

WAAAH.
WAAH.

?
?

フス

.....

PFF!

REASON TWO:

ISHIDA! COME TO THE FACULTY OFFICE!

THANK YOU!

TAKE A BREAK!

ALRIGHT, SECOND PERIOD'S OVER!

I'LL WRITE IT FOR YOU.

click click

UM...

click click

AH...

click click

What did you just say?

I didn't quite get that part Could you explain it to me?

SHE DRAGGED EVERYONE ELSE DOWN WITH HER.

What are you talking about? ^^

Could you tell me what the teacher just said?

ASK HIM YOURSELF!

HELL NO!

GH!

Could you please turn this way when you talk?

SENSEI, NISHIMIYA-SAN HAS ANOTHER QUESTION!

WHENEVER SHE RAISED HER HAND IN CLASS, EVERYTHING HAD TO BE STOPPED.

SORRY.

WE STARTED TO CALL IT "NISHIMIYA TIME". (OR AT LEAST, I DID.)

REASON THREE:

THIS SINGLE STICK IS EASILY SNAPPED IN TWO

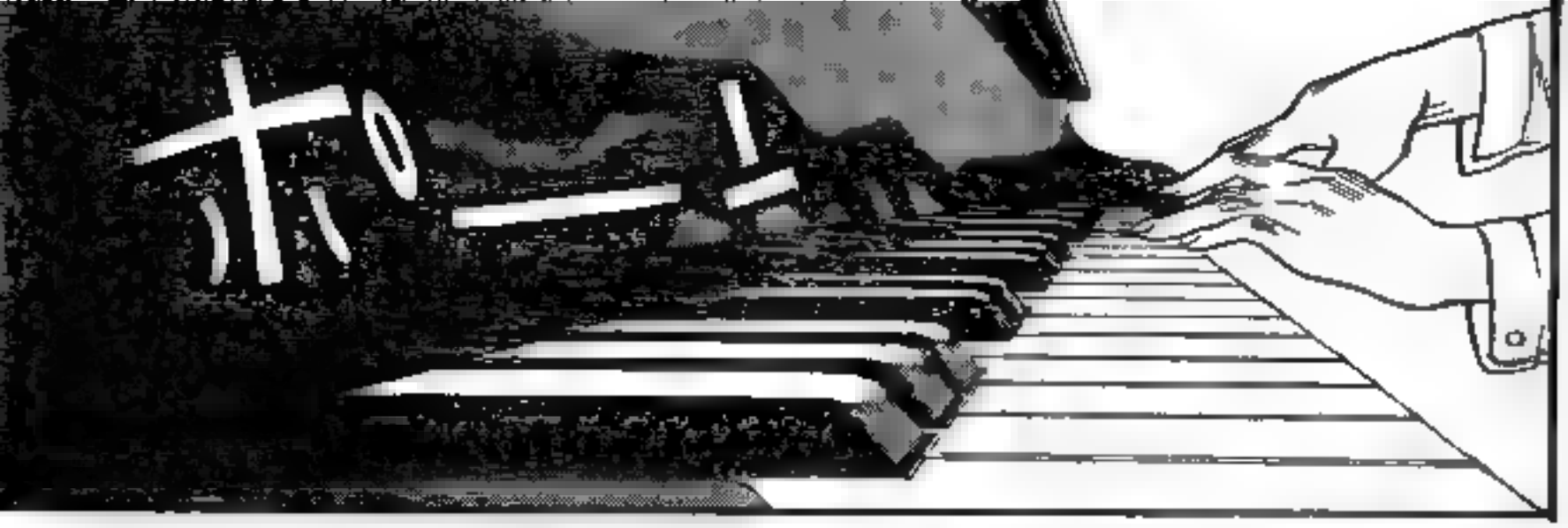
BUT IF YOU BUNDLE ALL THE STICKS WE CALL "CLASSMATES" TOGETHER,

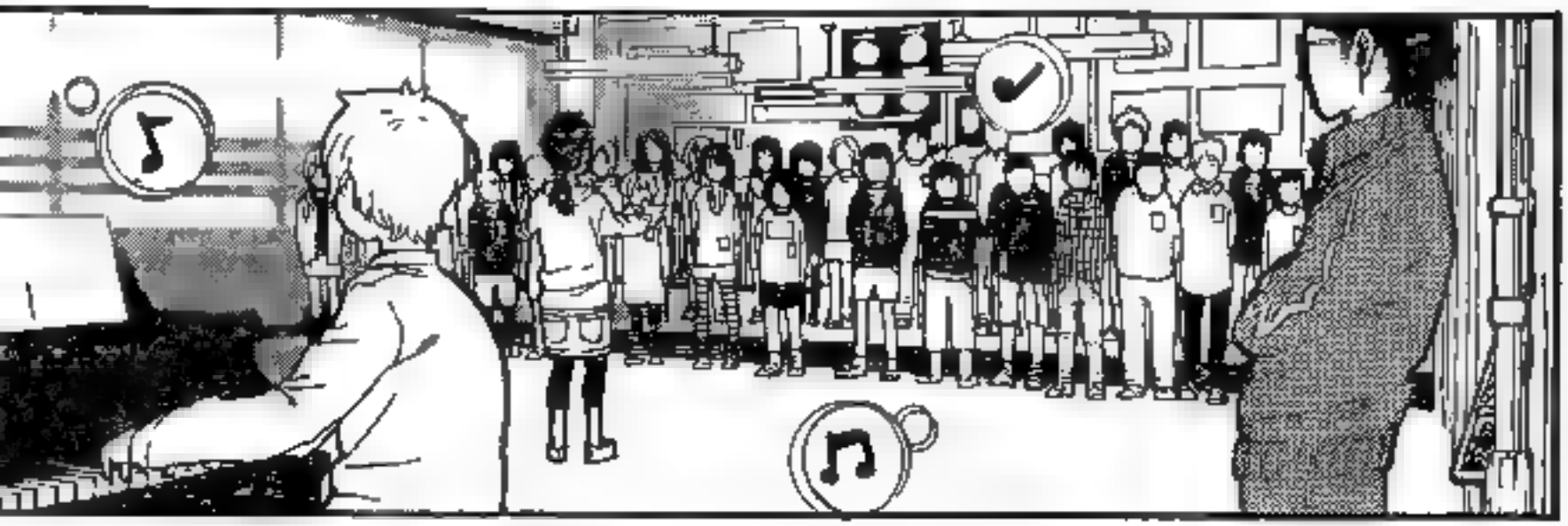
YOU'LL CREATE AN UNBREAKABLE ROD

WE HAD ALL GOTTEN TIRED OF DEALING WITH THIS NISHIYAMA.

CHORAL PRACTICE WILL START TODAY. I HOPE YOU ALL TRY TO DO YOUR BEST

NATURALLY, THE CHORAL CONTEST IS A TIME WHEN YOUR BONDS AS CLASSMATES ARE TESTED





Music Room

YOU WANT SHOUKO-CHAN TO STAY HERE ALONE ?

YES.

. DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET HER PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEST?

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT: WINNING THE CONTEST, OR LEARNING ABOUT MUSIC TOGETHER AS EQUALS?!

I KNOW.

BUT WINNING THE CHORAL CONTEST IS PRACTICALLY A SCHOOL TRADITION. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT

HER DISABILITY IS-

THAT'S TOO CRUEL!

DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE CAN LEARN?

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT WE CAN DECIDE!

NO!

Do you want to sing?

Do you not want to sing?

WHAT'S IMPORT-ANT IS.

Do you want to sing?

I want to learn how to sing.

Do you not want to sing?

JEEZ, WHO THE HELL PUT ME IN CHARGE OF THIS BAGGAGE...

……

!

AH... SHE'S...

TELLING THE GIRL NEXT TO HER HOW TO ADJUST HER PITCH.

...WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

YOU SEE, SHE'S DEAF...

UM.

OH.

HUH.

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU JUDGED US WITH RESPECT TO THIS.

CONGRATS!

NISHIMIYA STOPPED SMILING.

DURING BREAKS, SHE TALKED TO HER BIG, HEAVY NOTEBOOK INSTEAD.

SHE STOPPED TRYING TO TALK TO US.

SHE SAT THERE

STILL AS A STATUE.

I UNDER-STAND WHY.

EVERY TIME SHE STOOD UP TO GO SOMEWHERE,

GROSS!

SHE KNEW PEOPLE WERE SAYING THINGS ABOUT HER.

OH YEAH, MY MOM SAID THAT SHE'D GOTTEN SOME NEW DEVICE THAT LETS HER HEAR.

AH, CRAP, DID SHE HEAR?

DAMN!

I WIN!

AH... SHE TURNED AROUND.

MAYBE SHE'S BEEN PRETENDING THAT SHE'S DEAF AL... THIS TIME

!?

!?

SEE, THIS IS IT.

CAN I SEE IT FOR A SEC?

WHAT IS THAT? LEMME SEE

HERE YOU GO.

AH HA HA!

EW, THERE'S SOMETHING ON IT!

GROSS!

!!

OOPS!

LOOK AT THAT! YOU HAVE ANOTHER ONE!

!!

Eeh!

SHOUYA, YOU BETTER APOLOGIZE!

SOMEONE GET A TISSUE.

JEEZ

DUDE, IT DRIPPED ON THE FLOOR.

WHOA! NISHIMIYA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?

ISHIDA!

I'M SORRY

YEAH.

YEAH.

Faculty Office

DID YOU CRY? HUH?

YO, NICE WORK IN THERE

GOD, THAT WAS DUMB.

I BET NISHIMIYA TOLD HER PARENTS ON YOU.

HE LECTURED ME FOR A WHOLE DAMN HOUR.

THIS SUCKS!!

AH.

YOU SHOULD FEEL A LITTLE MORE ASHAMED ABOUT THIS!

JEEZ, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TELL ME IF A TEACHER'S THERE!

WHAT?!

GET OUT OF THE WAY, RETARD!

I'm sorry.

!!

?

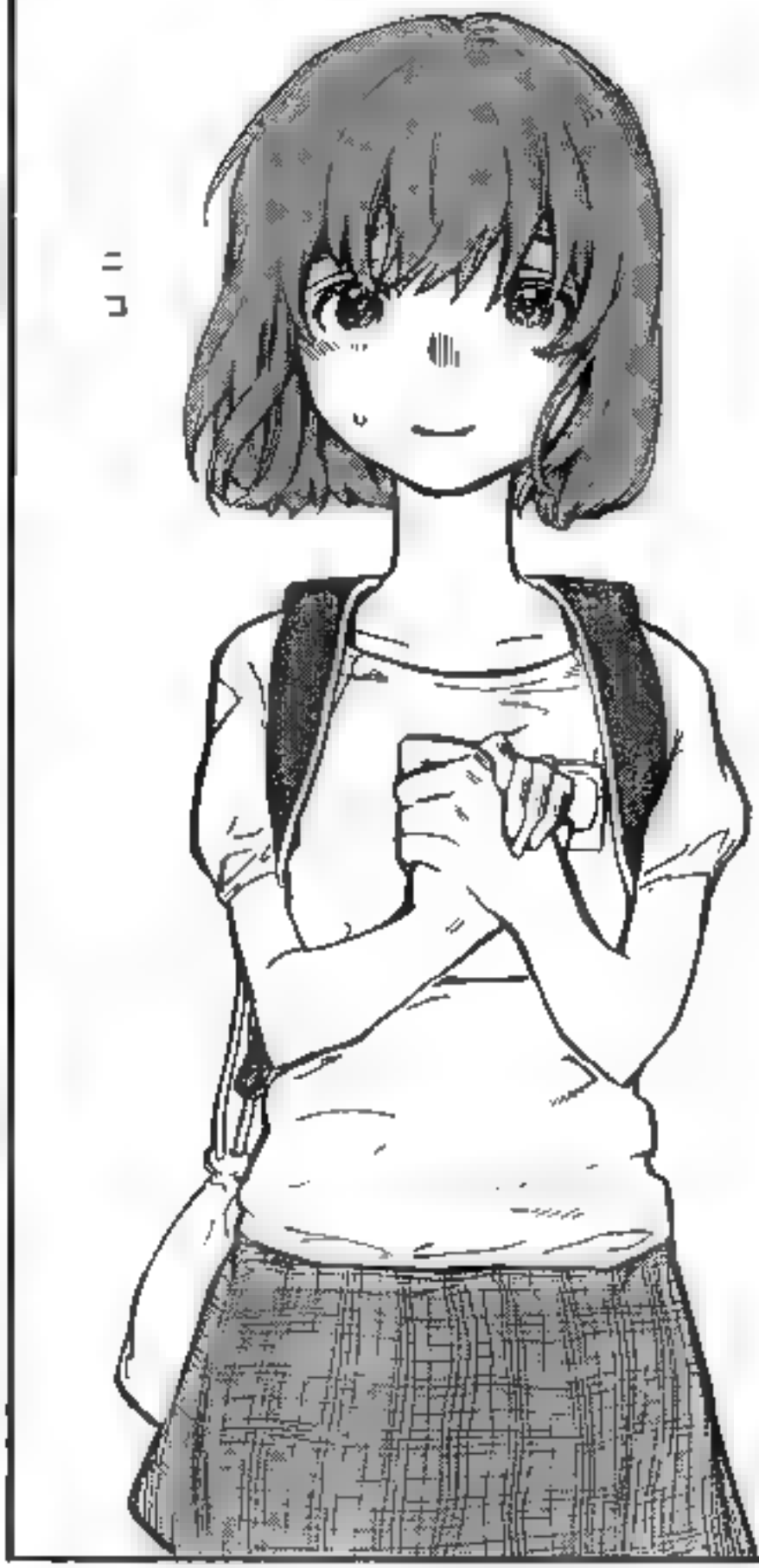
heh heh
GOT A PROBLEM? THEN USE YOUR VOICE!
.....
...KUH.

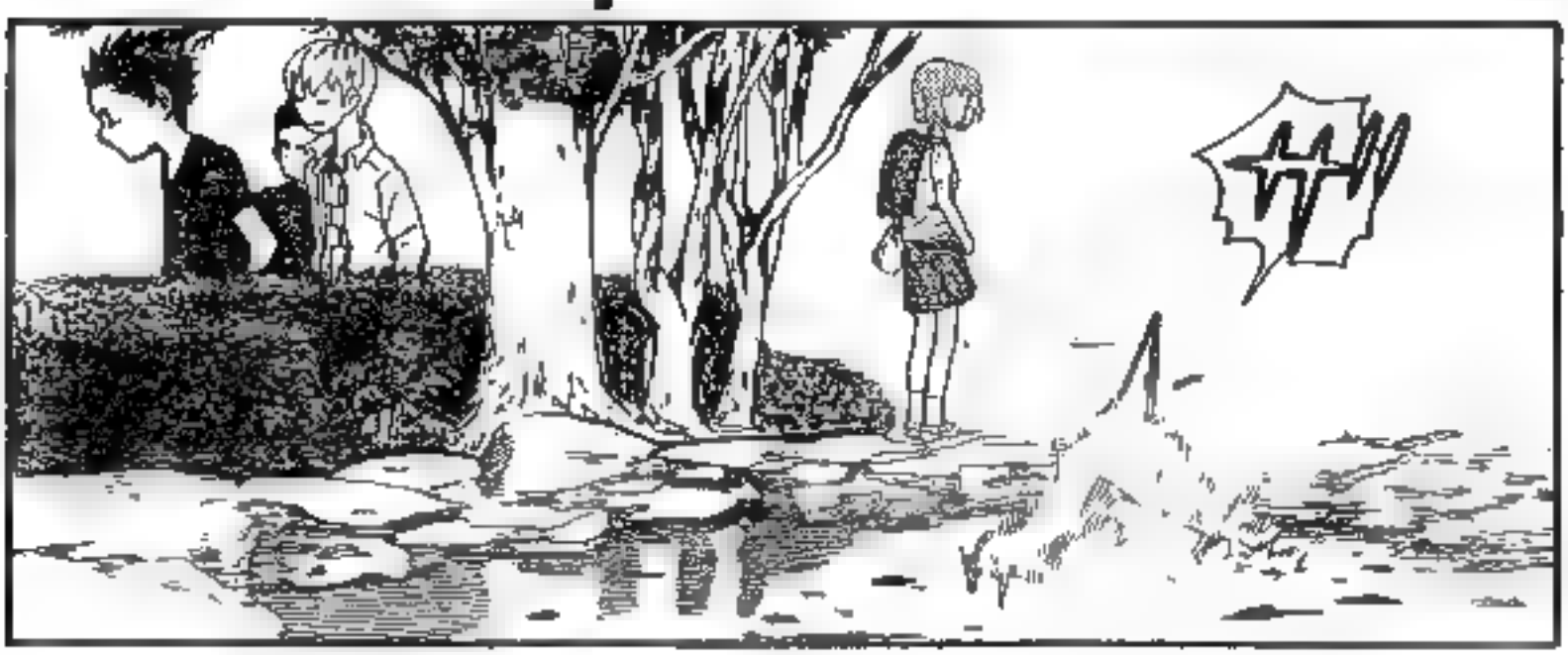
AH.

BACK OFF!

!?

LET'S GO
SHE'S
CREEPING
ME OUT





!!

HM?

HAHAHA!

GWAH! REALLY?!

SHE'S SO DIRTY!

ゴボ

I WILL USE THIS NOTEBOOK TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU ALL. I HOPE WE CAN ALL BE FRIENDS.

EVERY DAY WAS FUN.

'CAUSE NOW WE HAD A NEW GAME.

LIFE WAS GREAT.

TODAY INSTEAD OF HAVING OUR COMBINED CLASSROOM TIME WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS SOMETHING IMPORTANT WITH ALL OF YOU

FIRST, A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

IT'S ABOUT NISHIMIYA-SAN, WHO HAS TAKEN TODAY OFF.

WE GOT A CALL FROM NISHIMIYA-SAN'S MOTHER YESTERDAY.

IN JUST FIVE MONTHS, EIGHT OF HER HEARING AIDS HAVE EITHER GONE MISSING OR HAVE BEEN BROKEN.

SHE WONDERED IF SHE WAS BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL...

IF ANYONE KNOWS HOW THIS HAPPENED, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.

自治の声

HEARING AIDS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE

OF COURSE SINCE YOU'RE ALL CHILDREN, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PAY

IF SOMEONE TURNS THEMSELVES IN RIGHT NOW, THE SCHOOL WILL TAKE CARE OF IT

YOUR PARENTS WON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED

ALTOGETHER, THEY WOULD COST 17 MILLION YEN.

17 MILLION YEN IS ABOUT $14,500.

IF WE DON'T FIND OUT WHO IT IS, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE INVESTIGATION TO THE POLICE

HEY, ISHI-DA!

IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?! STAND UP!

GYAH!

WELL, HE REALLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT SHE CAN'T HEAR.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY? THOUGH I THINK SHE KNEW THAT SHE WAS BEING MADE FUN OF.

UENO!

YOU SIT NEXT TO HIM. WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT HIM?

Y-YES SIR! UM...

STAND

...

I FEEL BAD FOR NOT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK...

..HUH

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE BOYS, OF COURSE.

ALL OF US GIRLS THOUGHT THAT WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS WRONG.

UENO-SAN...

SHE'S PROBABLY THE PERSON WHO TOLD ISHIDA-KUN TO STOP THE MOST!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHIMADA?

BUT HE NEVER LISTENED TO ME...

WELL...

I TOLD HIM TO KNOCK IT OFF A FEW TIMES,

ISHIDA! RIGHT NOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT *YOU!*

YOU WERE ALL LAUGHING! EVEN YOU, SENSEI!

WHAT THE HELL? WHY ARE YOU ALL ACTING LIKE I'M THE BAD GUY HERE?!

WHAT?!

AND THE GIRLS WERE THE ONES WHO SAID THE MEANEST THINGS!

ESPECIALLY KAWAI AND UENO!

YOU'RE SO CRUEL, ISHIDA-KUN. I'M THE CLASS REP. WHY WOULD I DO SUCH A THING...?

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT...?

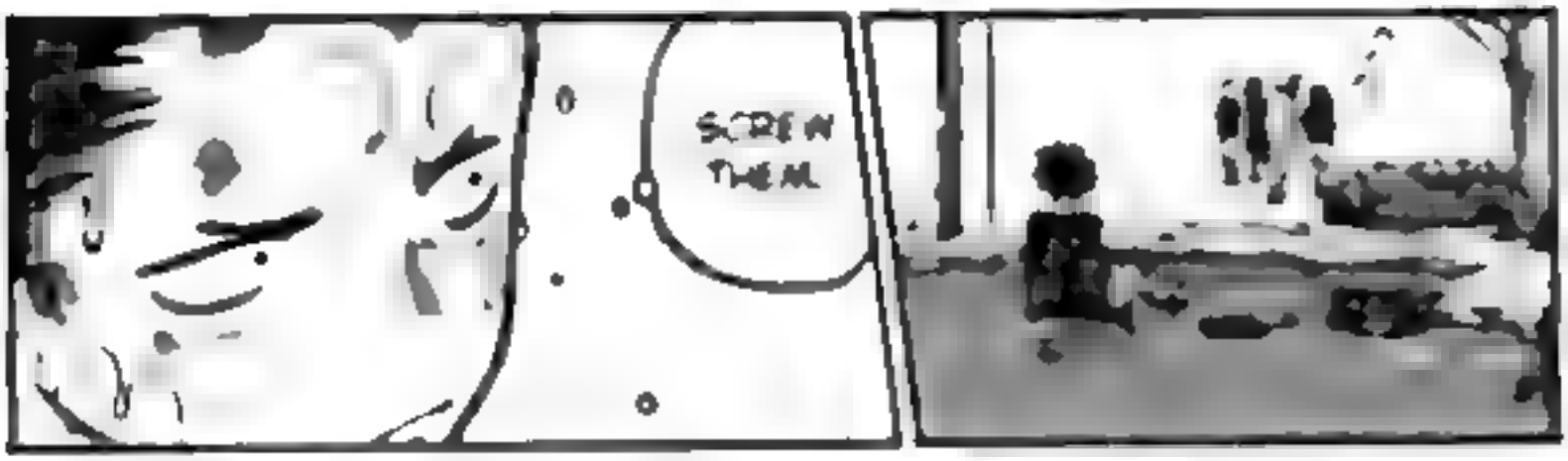
WOW.

HE'S THE WORST.

YOU BETTER APOLOGIZE TO KAWAI-SAN AND UENO-SAN!

MAN, TODAY JUST WASN'T YOUR DAY, SHOUYA!

DESPITE WHAT HAPPENED, I HOPE WE CAN STILL GET ALONG TOMORROW!


SCREW THEM.

But

!

JEEZ, SHE WAS HAVING FUN.

"NICE TO MEET YOU." "LET'S BE FRIENDS." "SEE YOU LATER."

Thanks!

"THANK YOU." "I GOT IT." "BE CARE-FUL."

JUNE.

Thank you very much

"THANK YOU." "SORRY FOR EVERYTHING."

"I'M SORRY." "I'M SORRY." "I'M SORRY." .....

OCTOBER

Sorry for always making you do this!

I'm sorry

HEY, ISHIDA.

WHO SAID YOU COULD JUMP IN THERE?

DON'T LIE TO ME. TELL THE TRUTH.

SHIMADA PUSHED ME IN.

.....

A MONTH PASSED. I HAD NO MORE FRIENDS.

MY SHOES OFTEN WENT MISSING.

DURING CLASS MEETINGS, EVERYONE CONCENTRATED THEIR FIRE ON ME.

ISHIDA-KUN WENT TO ANOTHER CLASS TO GOOF OFF!

PLAYING PRANKS ON ME.

TALKING BEHIND MY BACK.

PEOPLE STARTED IGNORING ME.

THIS REALLY PISSES ME OFF.

THAT'S THE EIGHTH PAIR.

DAM-MIT...

A BRAND NEW PAIR IS IN PLACE...

7:00 AM, MISSION START!

!

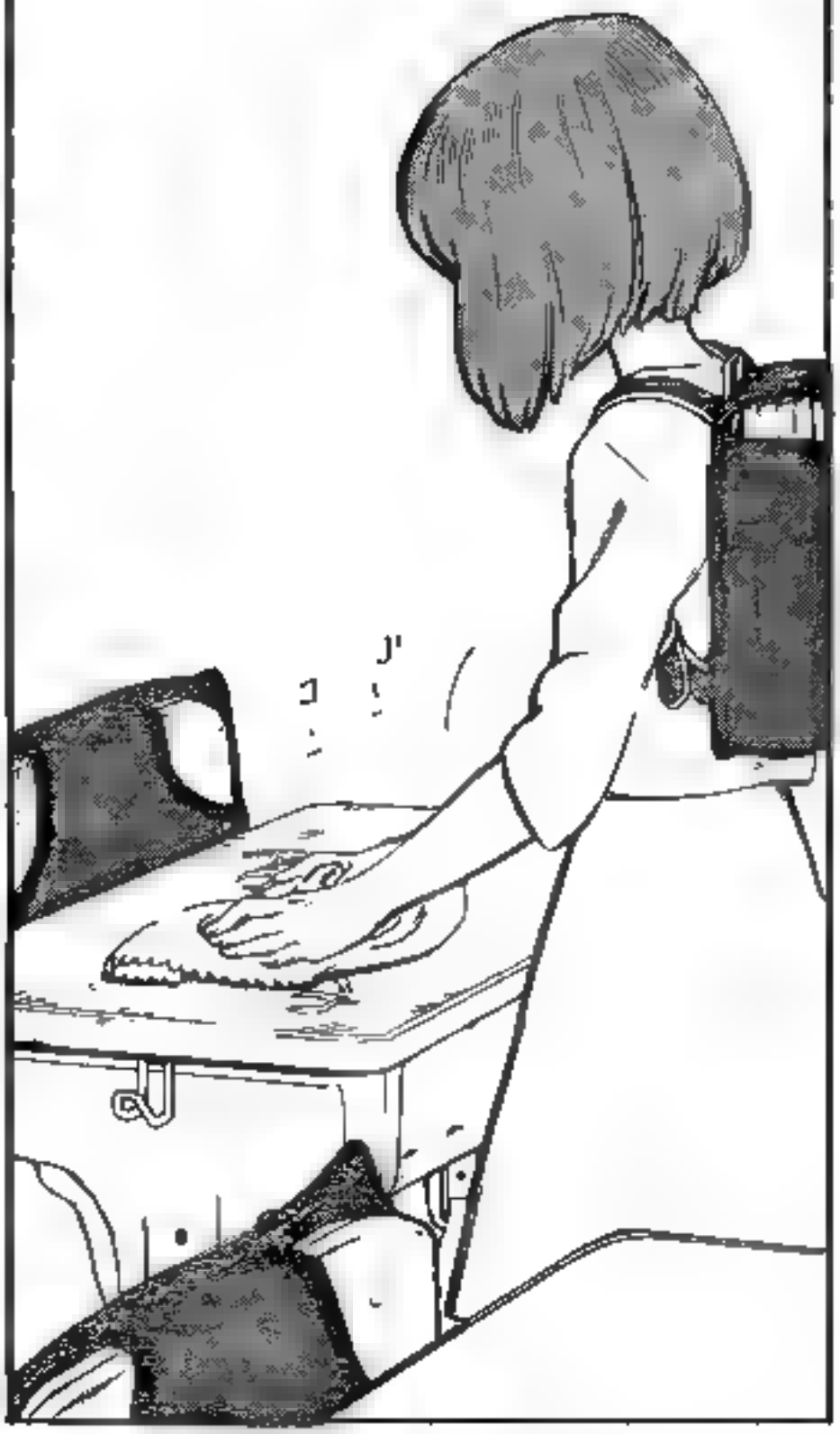
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S BEEN HIDING THEM, BUT DAMMIT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT!

NISHI-MIYA?!

SHE'S IN CHARGE OF THE FLOWERS? IS THAT WHY SHE'S HERE SO EARLY ?

DIE

URSELF



OKAY,
BACK TO THE STAKE-OUT!

IS SHE STILL GETTING BULLIED?
POOR HER.

I KNEW IT WAS YOU, ASS-HOLE!

AH. THERE YOU ARE.

LATELY I'VE BEEN WONDERING.

WHEN I DID STUFF LIKE THIS TO HER?

WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HER HEAD

NISHI-MIYA...

WAS THAT IT?

I'm sorry.

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN JUST THAT

'CAUSE I'M GOING THROUGH THE SAME THING RIGHT NOW, AND I'M THINKING LOTS OF THINGS.

WAS THAT IT?!

GYAH!?

WH... WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

DON'T PRETEND TO BE NICE TO ME!

ハア ハア

……

THERE'S THAT SMILE AGAIN.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN USE YOUR VOICE!

YOU'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE HOW YOU REALLY FEEL!

YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING, AND PLAY UP HOW "WEAK" YOU ARE! GET A FUCKING TEACHER TO HELP YOU!

YOU'RE SUCH A FUCKING COWARD!

OH, IT'S ON!

MGH!
HH!
HH!

MNNNGH!!

NISHIMIYA TRANSFER-RED OUT.
A MONTH LATER

MORN-ING

MORN-ING

WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, SHE SILENTLY DISAPPE-ARED.

SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE.

THE DAY AFTER NISHIMIYA TRANS-FERRED OUT,

I REALIZED SOMETHING.

WE DON'T NEED BULLIES LIKE YOU!

KILL traitor!

I dare you

YOURSELF!

GET LOST!

DIE

FROM THE WHOLE CLASS

IT WAS MY DESK.

NISHIYAMA WAS CLEANING MY DESK.

EVERY DAY UNTIL GRADU-ATION.

EVERY DAY, I FOUND HORRIBLE THINGS WRITTEN ON MY DESK IN CHALK.

NISHIMIYA HAD BEEN CLEANING MY DESK FOR ME.

EVERY MORN-ING,

FIVE YEARS LATER

HERE.

!

I FINALLY... FOUND YOU.

YOU FORGOT THIS.

!!

!!

WHAT?

You know sign language?!

YOU SUFFERED A LOT BECAUSE NOBODY COULD HEAR YOUR VOICE.

SO I COULD SAY THIS TO YOU

I STUDIED IT.

BACK THEN,

IF WE COULD HAVE HEARD EACH OTHER'S VOICES,

EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH BETTER.

WHAT YOUR VOICE WAS SAYING BACK THEN.

AND NOW,

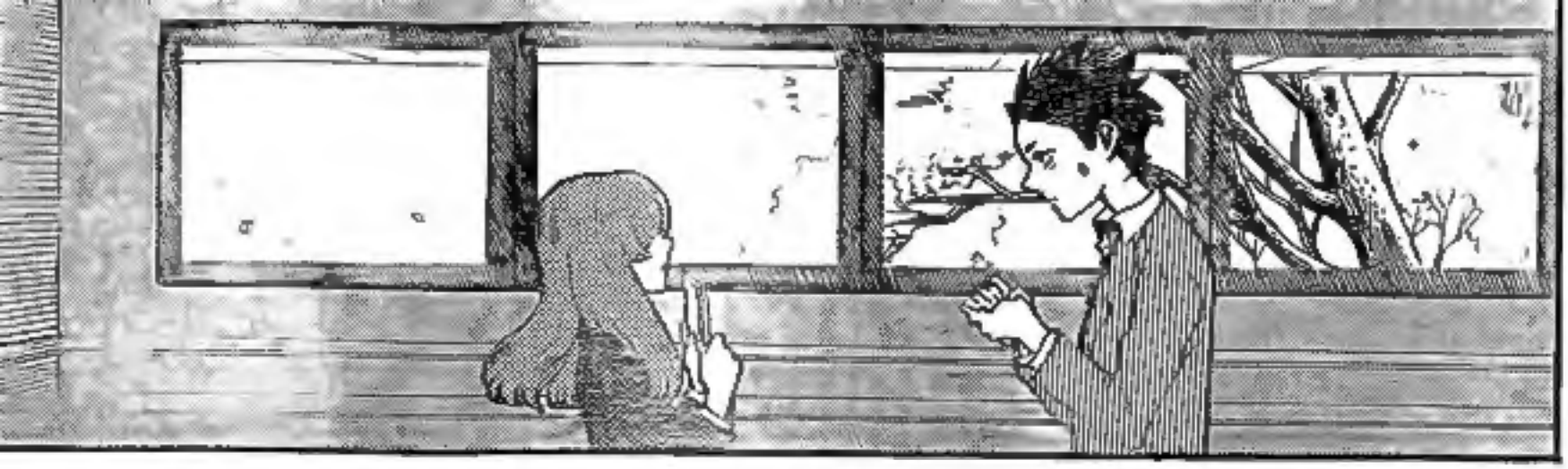
I UNDER-STAND.

ALL WE DID WAS HURT EACH OTHER. WE NEVER USED OUR VOICES.

YOU

AND ME

CAN WE BE... FRIENDS?



...WHY DID YOU EVEN SAY THAT?!
JEEZ, THAT'S SO EMBARRASSING! HOW CAN YOU EVEN SAY THAT?!

Their clumsy youthful days have begun! We hope you'll root for them!

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